

SIAC, Special Education Subcommittee meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2013
1:30pm-3:30pm
33 W Monroe, Chicago IL – 24th floor, Board Room East
Conference number 888-494-4032
Participant code 719 851 8485#

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Karen Berman, Jenny Carlson, Lynette Chandler, Julie Evans, Angelica Flores, Evelyn Green, Chelsea Guillen, Dan Hausman, Annie Hysaw, Madelyn James, Bernadette Laumann, Gail Nelson, Kim Nelson, Donna Nylander, Pam Reising, Vanessa Rich, Kathy Slattery, Granada Williams, and Amy Zimmerman

I. Welcome and Introductions

Introductory comments and attendance taken.

II. Review/approve meeting minutes from 4.29.13 and 3.8.13

The minutes for 4.29.13 and 3.8.13 were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Updates

a. Early Learning Council and Special Education Subcommittee

On 6.24.13 there was a larger Early Learning Council meeting, as well as a special Executive Committee meeting. Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge is a high priority. The Phase 2 funding will be spent on quality improvement and the Office of Early Childhood Development is submitting their budget plan no later than July 2. The focus for the Phase 2 spending is on 1) incentivizing programs to participate in the QRIS system and to want to move up the various levels, and 2) quality improvement activities.

This subcommittee's goals are two-fold: 1) to make suggestions on the types of trainings that should be offered around the inclusion of children with special needs and how providers can help families obtain special education services for their children; and 2) making recommendations for the Level 5 Award of Excellence for the inclusion of children with special education needs.

b. President's early childhood proposal: Illinois

See the handout for a general overview of the President's proposal.

c. Recent legislation and rule proposals

ISBE is proposing to repeal 23 Ill. Admin. Code 226.730, which will terminate the 70:30 rule and remove student-teacher ratios for 3-5 year olds in self-contained

classrooms. The Ounce of Prevention Fund, Latino Policy Forum, and Health & Disability Advocates have submitted public comment.

The Office of Special Education Programs is proposing to modify the reporting regulations, which includes changes to indicator reporting and systems alignment. The Ounce of Prevention Fund and Health & Disability Advocates submitted comment. The Ounce's comments commended OSEP for encouraging states to align systems, but asks that OSEP specifically identify specific systems and initiatives that states should be aligning. HDA commented on the implications of various identifiers. The public comment period has passed, but we are alerting our members to these proposed changes.

Amy Zimmerman provided updates on two bills that passed both Houses and are now awaiting the Governor's signature. HB1446 codifies the amount of time that a school district has to implement an IEP to 10 school attendance days, instead of the next school semester.

HB1288 requires that after a complainant parent or advocacy organization files a complaint, that the school district provide the complainant a copy of the district's response. The second portion of this bill allows for a "stay put" provision when a families files for mediation. Currently, the "stay put" provision only applies to due process.

Health and Disability Advocates is also submitting comment in response to DHS' proposed Early Intervention Rule. Their comments will include that DHS keep the 2-day referral period for primary referral sources. This referral period is not being monitored, and primary referral sources have not indicated that the two-day period is problematic.

Action Step: Angelica will forward the subcommittee the link to the DHS proposed Early Intervention rule.

IV. Beth Knight, INCCRRA

The "Welcoming Each and Every Child" curriculum is aligned with DCFS licensing requirements. It is now 7.5 hrs long, which allows for this to qualify for credential training. It is registry approved and offered on average about 80 times per year. There are 60 trainers qualified to deliver this curriculum and it is offered in Spanish and English. INCCRRA is working on an on-line module. This curriculum is a Stage 2 training, which means it is about raising awareness and acclimating providers with resources they will need for their children.

INCCRRA will be convening a Race to the Top Committee to develop trainings for the Bronze level, which will start convening in the next 6 weeks.

Early Childhood Developmental Screening is a Stage 3 component and is being revised; it might move up to Stage 4.

A crosswalk is needed to understand what trainings are available and to determine where there may be gaps.

Action Step: Annie Hysaw and Chelsea Guillen will provide information on EI. Granada Williams will provide information on Head Start. Kathy Slattery, Evelyn Green, and Gail Nelson will provide information on STARnet and IRC. Everyone should provide background on the trainings offered, the objectives of those trainings, frequency and accessibility. This will be compiled into a crosswalk.

V. Next Steps

- a. Continue to add resources to the Special Education Subcommittee folder on Google Drive (previously Google Docs):
<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9DBauyiK1zbT082MmJ5RUdmUm8&usp=sharing> *Note: you will need to log in to your Google account in order to upload documents to the folder*

Action Step: Angelica will send out two doodle polls—one for a meeting time in mid to late July for those working on the training information and another for a meeting time with the full subcommittee in mid to late August.

Hand-outs: Meeting agenda, meeting minutes from 4.29.13 and 3.8.13, President's proposal press release, QRIS Levels 1-4, instructions for using the Google Drive folder